

Claims:

1. An expandable tubular coupling comprising:
a threaded male portion; and
a corresponding threaded female portion,
the threaded portions featuring thread profiles configured such that the coupling may be made up to a predetermined extent, and once made up to said predetermined extent may be made up no further.
2. An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein each thread portion comprises first and second parts having different thread profiles.
3. An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the male portion has a leading part with a thread profile corresponding to the thread profile of a trailing part of the female portion.
4. An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the male portion has a trailing part with a thread profile corresponding to the thread profile of a leading part of the female portion.
5. An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 4, wherein the thread profiles are configured such that the thread portions may be made up until the start of the thread profile on the trailing part of the male portion encounters the start of the different thread profile on the trailing part of the female portion.
6. An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 4, wherein the change in thread profiles between the first and second parts is abrupt.

7. An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 4, wherein the change in thread profiles between the first and second parts is gradual.
8. An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 4, wherein the change in thread profiles between the first and second parts is incremental.
9. An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thread profiles are a combination of a square thread profile and a dovetail thread profile.
10. An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 9, wherein the square profile is provided on a leading part of the male portion and the dovetail profile is provided on a trailing part of the male portion.
11. An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 9, wherein the square profile is provided on a trailing part of the female portion and the dovetail profile is provided on a leading part of the female portion.
12. An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 11, wherein the square profile on the leading part of the male portion is adapted to mate with the dovetail profile on the leading part of the female portion.
13. An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 11, wherein the dovetail profile on the trailing part of the male portion is configured so as not to mate with the square profile on the trailing part of the female portion.
14. An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thread profiles are a combination of similar form but differently dimensioned thread profiles.
15. An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 14, wherein the thread profiles are square thread profiles.

16. An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 14, wherein the thread profiles are dovetail profiles.
17. An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 14, wherein a smaller thread profile is provided on the leading part of the male portion and is adapted to mate with a similarly dimensioned thread profile provided on the trailing part of the female portion.
18. An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 14, wherein a larger dimensioned thread profile is provided on trailing and leading parts of the male and female portions respectively, which larger dimensioned thread profiles are engageable with each other but are not engageable with smaller thread profiles provided on the leading and trailing parts of the male and female portions respectively.
19. An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 14, wherein the interface between the different dimensioned thread profiles is abrupt.
20. An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 14, wherein the interface between the different dimensioned thread profiles is gradual.
21. An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 14, wherein the interface between the different dimensioned thread profiles is incremental.
22. An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thread profiles are parallel.
23. An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thread profiles are tapered.

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24. An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thread profiles are left hand.

25. An expandable tubular coupling as claimed in claim 1, wherein the thread profiles are right hand.

26. A method of coupling tubulars, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a first tubular having a threaded male portion and a second tubular having a corresponding threaded female portion, wherein the threaded portions feature thread profiles configured such that the threaded portions may be made up to a predetermined extent, and once made up to said predetermined extent may be made up no further; and

engaging the male and female threaded portions to form a tubular coupling made up to said predetermined extent.

27. The method of claim 26, further comprising locating the coupled tubulars downhole.

28. The method of claim 26, further comprising diametrically expanding the coupled tubulars.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the coupled tubulars are diametrically expanded by a rotary expansion tool.